

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 CU-02

/039 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:RDLORTON:MMK

APPROVED BY NEA/INS:DKUX

L/NEA:JROHWER

H:RFLATEN (SUBS)

NEA:ADUBS

----- 032191

R 252050Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, NP

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PERMIT TO CLIMB MOUNT EVEREST

REF: (A) KATHMANDU 5054; (B) KATHMANDU 5071

1. PROBLEM OVER REV. FORD'S REQUEST FOR PERMIT TO CLIMB EVEREST POINTS UP WHOLE ISSUE OF USG INVOLVEMENT IN ENDORSING HIMALAYAN EXPEDITIONS IN NEPAL, IF ONLY FOR PURPOSES OF MEETING REQUIREMENTS OF GON REGULATIONS. WE HAVE WONDERED ABOUT THIS APPROACH FOR SOME TIME, BUT IN INTEREST OF ASSISTING AMERICAN CLIMBERS HAVE CONTINUED TO USE STANDARD LETTER TO FORWARD APPLICATIONS TO KATHMANDU.

2. WE HAVE NO DESIRE, NOR INDEED ANY RIGHT, TO PLACE OBSTACLES IN WAY OF ANY AMERICAN WHO WISHES TO FILE A CLIMBING APPLICATION WITH GON. FURTHER, WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO COMPEL AN INDIVIDUAL TO WORK THROUGH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB, WHICH IS A STRICTLY PRIVATE, NON-

GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION. IT SHOULD BE SOLELY UP TO GON TO DECIDE WHICH IF ANY MOUTAINEERING GROUPS IT WISHES TO WORK WITH.

3. WE BELIEVE IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE IN OUR APPROACH TO THIS QUESTION. WE SUGGEST YOU REPLY TO THE MFA'S NOVEMBER 18 LETTER ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO REV. FORD'S UNDERTAKING HIS PROPOSED EXPEDITION TO MOUNT EVEREST. USG IS NOT IN A POSITION TO JUDGE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS FOR AN EXPEDITION SUCH AS THIS AND BELIEVES THE GON SHOULD CONSIDER APPLICATION ON ITS MERITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHATEVER REGULATIONS IT WISHES TO SET FORTH.

4. FYI: DEPTOFF HAD LENGTHY TELEPHONE DISCUSSION WITH REV. FORD NOVEMBER 24. FORD SAID HE HAD BEEN IN DIRECT TOUCH WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ARYAL DURING LATTER'S STAY IN NEW YORK, WHO TOLD HIM GON COULD APPROVE APPLICATION IF USG RAISED NO OBJECTION. FORD ALSO ASSERTED GON ITSELF IS MOVING TOWARD DELETION OF REQUIREMENT THAT EXPEDITIONS BE ENDORSED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NATIONALS CONCERNED. ALSO UNDERSTAND FORD HAS ENDORSEMENT OF ALASKAN ALPINE CLUB AND THAT SUCH ENDORSEMENT IS INCORPORATED AS PART OF HIS APPLICATION. END FYI.

5. WE HAVE NOT PASSED MESSAGE CONTAINED REF B AND INSTEAD PROPOSE INFORM MAYOR SULLIVAN AND SENATOR STEVENS WE HAVE ADVISED GON WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO PROPOSED EXPEDITION AND WILL INFORM THEM WHEN GON DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.

6. PLEASE ADVISE ACTION TAKEN. KISSINGER

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